

***The First Congregational Church
of Essex Junction***
United Church of Christ



***A Welcoming Community, Accepting and
Serving All in the Spirit of Christ***

The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction, United Church of Christ, is an Open and Affirming congregation, embracing diversity and affirming the dignity and worth of every person, because we are all created by a loving God. We seek to live Christ's call for compassion, justice, healing and wholeness in life. Therefore, we welcome into our community persons of every race, gender, age, sexual orientation, faith background, nationality, ethnicity, marital status, mental and physical ability, economic and social position, gender identity and expression, level of education and family structure. We invite all to share in the life, leadership, ordained ministry, lay ministry, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, fellowship, blessings, and joys of our congregation as we seek to grow together in faith and love.

**One Church Street
Essex Junction, VT 05452**

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Facebook: First Congregational Church of Essex Junction UCC



The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction
A United Church of Christ
November 3, 2019

All Saints Sunday

*A Welcoming Community, Accepting and Serving All
In the Spirit of Christ*

Order of Worship

Prelude

An Extravagant Welcome

*No matter who you are
or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome in this place.*

Welcome Greeting and Announcements

Our Ministers will welcome everyone to church and then highlight some events in our shared life, then the Deacon on Duty will welcome everyone and invite people to raise significant celebrations to the congregation or introduce yourself or a friend as a guest. We encourage everyone to sign the Friendship Book.

A Musical Introit

Call to Worship

Leader: Come, as we enter this Holy Ground, let us shed our lives of all the burdens that weigh us down. Come, let us open ourselves to the Living Presence of God Almighty!

People: Come, let the grace of God wash over me through the friendship of those surrounding, through the power of the Word, through the mystical union of communion and through ardent prayers of these faithful people.

Leader: Come, let us lean on the saints for guidance, both those removed by time and those within our lives still inspiring us to life and love. Come, let us worship our God.

*Opening Hymn

Come, We Who Love God's Name

#382 vrs. 1,3,5

Unison Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, you teach us through the centuries to simply love: love and take care of the created order, love and cherish our relationship with you, love and treasure our neighbor and love ourselves without measure. We are so sorry that we fail in this simple, long standing request.

**Forgive us for not taking care of the world.
Forgive us for not nurturing our relationship to you.
Forgive us for not thinking about others.
And forgive us for neglecting our own well being.**

Help us integrate your love into our psyche and ways of being so that we might sincerely follow you. In Christ's name, amen.

The Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Luckily, God loves us and embedded in that belief is complete forgiveness. When we fall short of God's vision of love, God always forgives us. Jesus forgives all of you today.

People: We accept God's mercy and will use it to pay it forward.

Leader: Amen and Alleluia...The Good News of Christ's victory!!!

Children's Message

Our Nursery is for children under 3 years and the room has a speaker for you to listen to the service and it is streamed to Fellowship Hall. After the 2nd service's children's message, preschool and kindergarteners are invited for a time of Faith Formation on the 2nd floor with our Spiritual Friends. Adults are welcome to accompany the children, help them get settled and stay or return to worship. All will return for Communion.

**God has made us all a rainbow.
Colors dancing 'round and 'round.
In our hair and skin and eyes, big and little, every size,
God has made us all a rainbow dancing 'round.**

**Jesus loves the little children,
All God's children of the world.
Whether young or old or new, Jesus loves us through and through
Teaching us to love all creatures in the world.**

Pastoral Prayer and Unison Lord's Prayer

A Time of Silence for Personal Prayer

Sharing Our Prayers with God and Each Other

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever, amen.

Musical Response

Scripture Readings

Old Testament Prophetic Habakkuk 1:1-5, 2:1-5 [page 676]

New Testament Gospel Luke 19:1-10 [page 63]

A Dramatic Rendering by our Youth

Musical Anthem

Communion Meditation

Saints, then and Now

Rev. Mendes

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Invitation

Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

At the First Service, *the bread will be passed out to the congregation; please wait for the minister to invite you to eat it so that we can all eat it together. This symbolizes our unity in Christ. Drink the cup as the Spirit moves each person to do so, as a sign of the unique gifts we bring to our ministry. Our faith is both an individual and corporate reality.*

At the Second Service, *the bread and cup will be offered to everyone up front. Everyone is asked to come forward and dip the bread into the cup, then partake immediately. Please try to NOT dip your fingers but just a bit of the bread: this will diminish the spreading of germs. People are free to come up to one of the ministers alone, in a family group or with a friend and partake together.*

Special note: *Our bread is gluten free and all the juice is non-alcoholic grape juice.*

All are welcome at Christ's table.

Offering Our Gifts to God

Invitation, Offering, and Prayer of Dedication

Anthem

***The Doxology # 778**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.**

***Hymn**

For All the Saints

#299

During the singing of the last hymn, people are invited to come forward and light a candle for one of the saints in their lives. Feel free to say their name right out loud as you light the candle. We may not hear you, but God surely will.

Benediction

Pastoral Benediction

***Sung Community Benediction**

Go Now In Peace

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know God will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there, holding you in love.
God now in peace, in faith and in love**

***Postlude**

*** = Please stand if you are able.**

FIVE CORNERS CHRISTMAS CRAFT FEST
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH
9 AM TO 3 PM

Mark your calendar for this big holiday event!



To make this event a success at our church your assistance with the following would be greatly appreciated:

Nearly New - Please consider donating to the Craft Fest when you are cleaning out your basement, closet, under your bed, burrow drawer, kitchen cupboards! **We are now accepting items in Marvin Lounge.**

Sweet Shoppe and Bakery – This year we are looking for unique items such as gluten free options, donuts, whoopee pies, peanut brittle, homemade candy, gingerbread men, chocolate covered pretzels, small cakes, maple fudge, sugar cookies and **pies**. All Items can be dropped off at the Church on Thursday and Friday November 7 & 8.

Silent Auction – Consider donating items such as: hosting a dinner, a day of golf, homemade pies, stay at a summer cottage, hand-made wall hanging, professional photograph, theatre tickets or sporting event tickets. We especially like to have services provided by our church members. All donations are tax-deductible. **Items can be dropped off in Church Office.**

Heavenly Spirit Café: We will once again be serving a delicious lunch. Please consider making homemade soups, macaroni and cheese, and chili. Also, consider donating ingredients or drink items.

Decorators: Everyone is needed Sunday Nov 3th from noon to 2 pm to decorate Marvin Lounge and Fellowship Hall.

Starting on Sunday October 20th until November 3rd the committee will have signup sheets after first service and second service for making a donation or signing up to volunteer at one of our amazing areas. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Linda Bogardus at 872-8972 or lbogardus@myfairpoint.net. MERRY CHRISTMAS

*The flowers on the altar are given by
Alison & Carl Wermer
In honor of their children's birthdays:
John, Roberta, Leo & Eva*



*****NEW***** 2020 Flower Chart is posted on the *Mission: Possible* board in the hallway between the Narthex and Fellowship Hall Please, request your flowers by Sunday, December 15th. We wish to provide this information to our flowers distributor before the 2020 calendar year.

Today's Ushers & Greeters



(1st Service) Greeter: Ginny Coe; Usher: Terri Livak & Marie Johnson

(2nd Service) Greeter: Marcia Duell; Usher: Maureen McKenzie & Beth Volker

*Interested in ushering/greeting? Register by visiting this link:
shorturl.at/LSWZ5*

First Church's Prayer Ministry

Marion Schneider
Beth Terry's Family
Richard Ansell
Pat Seaver
Bill Adams

Russ Dettenrieder
Bob Ursiny
Jennifer Morse
Tom Gibbs
Jennifer Morse

John A
Aidan W
Carlene Lawrence
Judy Blackmon
Karla

Please, let the office know if you would like a name added to our Prayer Ministry. You may write it on the Friendship Pad; call the office @ 878 5745; or email at welcome@fcej.org. Additionally, prayer requests will be edited regularly. If you find an unintended error or omission, then please, contact the Church

Coats and Shawls



Coat Closet Full? Additional storage is available in the Narthex. ***Feeling Chilly?*** We have a large stock of warm, hand-made prayer shawls to keep you cozy this year, and they are free to keep! Ask our Ushers/Greeters for help.

FAITH FORMATION (PreK-8th Grade)

Interested in Volunteering to help our children & youth?

Contact Laurie Chipman, CED: 878-5745 ext. 103; or lchipman@fccej.org.

Save the D@tes!

Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

Sunday, December 8th @ 11:30am

Preschool – 4th grade are encouraged to attend the first 20-30 minutes of pageant rehearsal to take a part and follow the youth and learn their part. Rehearsal continues for youth until 2pm.

Christmas Pageant Sunday

December 15th

Enjoy the pageant during both our worship services.

Peer Group Leaders

Preschool ~ Paula Sargent, Makaylah Moos, Kaki & Caitlin McGeary, Marlene & Courtney Frank

Kindergarten ~ Jenny Bourn & Laura Marthaler

First & Second Grade ~ Sue Conti & Lisa Clark

Third & Fourth Grade ~ Barb Smith & Allison VanSteensburg

Fifth ~Eighth Grade ~ Pastor Josh & Laurie

High School youth are encouraged to help with a Peer group during Faith Formation time. Junior and Seniors can also opt to be a paid helper in the Nursery.

Sunday School Offering Spectrum Youth & Family Services

2019 Total — \$502.33 (as of 10/27)



Remember to bring your offering each week, \$1 a week can go a long way! Please use the envelopes in the pews so your \$ goes to the right place.

Sunday Morning Calendar

November 3rd (on 1st Sundays of the month) - Intergenerational Worship for children & youth and can help usher/greet/read scripture PreK & K spend time with Spiritual Friends and return for communion

November 10th & 17th: Peer Group Time

November 24th: Hands-On Mission

December 1st: Intergenerational Worship

December 8th: Peer Group Time

December 15th: Pageant Sunday (Healing Service in the evening)

December 22nd & 29th: Intergenerational Worship



Faith Formation Conversations

Today, November 3rd during Spiritual Friends time. PreK & K will also be hear the Zacchaeus story.

YOUTH MINISTRY (5th-12th Grade)

FCCEJ Confirmation Class

Thursdays @ 7:30-9pm @ Marvin Lounge

Confirmation is an intentional time in a person's life, usually a young person, to learn more about Christianity, the Bible, faith, etc. During this time, they start to intentionally form what they believe and how they want to engage society. The confirmands attend other faith tradition's worship services, participate in community service projects, and participate in some capacity at church whether if it's through helping with faith formation, reading in worship, etc. It ends with confirmation Sunday when confirmands who want to join the church publicly do so. Anyone in 8th grade or above is welcome to join the Confirmation class. It is a one-year program. Confirmation class will take place most Thursdays, 7:30-9pm, between now and May 31st on Confirmation Sunday.

Junior Youth Calendar

Mark your calendars & join the FUN! These events are tailored for 5th-8th graders. The focus is on our faith, missions, and friendly games to boost fellowship. Meal donations and snacks for youth times are appreciated! Visit this link to list your contribution: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c054fa4a82fa5fc1-fccej>

November 3rd ~ JY time ~ 11:30am to 1:30pm. Help Greet/Usher/Read. Scripture during 10:15am worship; High School Youth Group meets today @ 5-7pm at church.

November 17th ~ JY time ~ 11:30am to 1:30pm

High School Youth Group

Date: TBA

This event will be hosted at the Church.

Stay active.

Lend a helping hand!

Help a neighbor or a friend. If you earn an allowance? Have a job? Practice dividing your money in these three ways:

- ⇒ Save (in the bank)
- ⇒ Give to the church/offering
- ⇒ You (spend/save/give to an organization)

Bring your Offering with you on Sunday and use the envelopes in the pews. Find ways and places to connect with your God & have spiritual time ~ praying in color, etc.



Rehearsal Schedule for JY & HS Youth

November 24th ~ 5 to 7pm

December 1st ~ 5 to 7pm

December 8th ~ 11:30 to 2pm

December 14th ~ TBA (between 1pm and 6pm)

December 15th ~ Pageant Sunday @ both services.

Pageant Rehearsal Helpers

If you enjoy the pageant here at First our youth could use your help. Starting on November 24th from 5-7pm (see schedule in youth section) we need adult helpers to assist with learning lines, collecting prop, organizing costumes and maybe helping with scenery. Interested? Please speak with Pastor Josh or Laurie.

EVENTS@FIRST: TODAY

Hannaford Cards Sunday, November 3rd

Reload your Hannaford Cards (up to \$500!) OR purchase new ones in \$25, \$50, \$100, and \$200 increments. The next reload/purchase date is *Sunday, November 17th*.

High School Youth Group meets today @ 5-7pm at church.



Adult Mission Trip to Puerto Rico!

Anyone 18 or older is welcome. PR needs our helps with repairing

cement roofs. We'd work five days, two days for travel, and one for Sunday worship at a local church. Looking to do this over the course of one week sometime at the end of April to early June. Cost will be \$800-850 per person.

Talk to Josh for more information.

Heavenly Food Pantry

We are seeking donations for “*Eenie, Meenie, Miney, More!*” of these: **spaghetti sauce, cereal, and chicken noodle soup, and one-dozen egg cartons.**



Support JUMP!

Part of our church's mission to JUMP (Joint Urban Ministry Project) is to provide **deodorant**. Our Red Tent Project has been very successful, but we need your donations! Please, find the red tent in the church's Marvin Lounge or Fellowship Hall (depending on construction.) Thank you for donating!

BELLS ARE RINGING... AGAIN!

After a hiatus, our team of handbell ringers will begin practicing every Wednesday night @ 6:30pm in our Sanctuary and playing at services throughout the year. No experience or musical training is necessary and all are welcome! ~~~~~

If you are interested, email Organist Carol Spradling (cspradling@fceej.org) for details.

EVENTS@FIRST: THIS WEEK

Sermon Talkback Tuesdays

Tuesdays, 8:30-10am

Gather with us in the Marvin Lounge for coffee, baked goods, and a lively discussion of the sermon delivered on Sunday, and much more! Join us for the conversation, the goodies, the camaraderie, or all of the above!

Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop

37 Main Street in Essex Junction

Hours: Tuesdays & Wednesdays, 10am-3pm; Thursdays 4pm-8pm; 1st & 3rd Saturday of each month, 9am-1pm. Phone : 879-6552.

News: The shop will now be open every Saturday from 9 am to 1 pm. A Big Thanks to our volunteers for making this happen. Spread the word to your family, co-workers, friends and neighbors. The Shop has been receiving many requests for more men's *clothes*. Please think about the Thrift Shop when cleaning out your closets. and volunteers needed now for Thursday shifts at 4pm-6pm and 6pm-8pm. Please, contact Elaine Raymond @ **879-7350** or ebraymond@gmail.com.

JOY (Just Older Youth)

Thursday, November 7th @ Noon

If you are 55+ please consider joining this active church group. JOY meets at noon on the first Thursday of the month. We strive to present programs that foster learning, fun, or service.

Wednesday Night Searchers

Wednesdays @ 7pm

Each week, a group of folks get together in the Marvin Lounge to explore the faith. We do so through books, movies, discussions with members from other religious traditions, TED Talks and anything else we want to do. Materials available @ the Church office.

Coffee Clatter Fridays

Fridays @ 8-9am

This may seem like a foolish question, but if you like to talk and drink coffee, then come down to Martone's for open conversation. Rev. Mark and/or Josh are there every week and talk about everything from camping to politics; from deep theological questions to silly jokes; from village life to great vacation spots; from business deals to the best restaurants in town. We laugh, get serious and support each other. **Everyone is invited!**

Affordable Housing Meeting

Thursday, November 7th @ 6:30pm

Meet at the United Methodist Church in Jericho (71 Vermont Route 15) to discuss the future of affordable housing in our neighborhood! Be an advocate for those in need!



EVENTS@FIRST: SAVE THE D@TE!

Young Adult Gathering

Friday, November 22, 7-9pm

Young Adult gathering at the parsonage.

Heavenly Food Pantry

Thursday, November 11th @ 5:30-7:30pm

The Pantry would appreciate these donations: *spaghetti sauce, cereal, and chicken noodle soup, and one-dozen egg cartons.* We now have plenty of egg cartons, so thank you! Also, we have several volunteering opportunities! See our church's newsletter for more details; or contact Val Gabert directly @ val.gabert@gmail.com.

Coat Drive

A Winter Coat Drive is currently underway to include winter coats, snow suits, snow pants, hats, mittens, scarves, and boots for children & adults. The winter gear will be distributed at the Heavenly Pantry Food Shelf on *Thursday, November 21st*. Thank you for your support of this program and for helping our neighbors in need.

Bridge Club

Friday, November 15th @ 1:30pm

Casual potluck-style game of Bridge. Join Pastor Mendes in our Marvin Lounge for a rousing game and a chance to win some of his world-famous jam!

Women's Spirituality Group

Saturday, November 16th @ 9:30am

All women of the church are invited to be a part of this vibrant group. In the hopes of expanding our group we will begin our year with conversation around what should be the groups purpose, and how can we interest more of our church women to be a part of this supportive group. Our programs will address personal growth, community outreach and having fun. Please consider joining us for conversation and goodies. (Bring your ideas for a possible name change.) Fellowship, Coffee & Conversation (we'll provide light food).

November Book Group

Monday, November 18th at 11:30 am

**NEW DATES*

The next book group will meet in the Marvin Lounge. We will be reading a novel by Sinclair Lewis. It Can't Happen Here was written in 1935 while Lewis was in Vermont for the summer. It is a tale about the fragility of democracy and a look at how facism could take hold in America when it was largely oblivious to Hitler's aggression in Europe. The novel is about the rise of a president who becomes a dictator to save the nation from welfare cheats, crime and a liberal press. In 1935 when it was written, it was called "a message to thinking Americans". It is a novel that remains as fresh and contemporary as today's news.

Capital Campaign Update

By Kaki McGeary



Thank you to the volunteers who spent a few hours last Sunday to clean-out and pare down our kitchen supplies and gear! Who knew we had so many punch bowls? Thank you Jim Glatz, Jenny Bourn, Ginny Coe, MJ Allen, Kaki McGeary and Val Gabert! We got rid of the things we no longer use, things that no longer function well, and things that many, many duplicates. We re-organized all

that was left so hopefully things will be easier to find and use. This project was a huge help to the Capital Campaign as we think about our storage needs and how the kitchen can be efficient and user-friendly for all who use it.

Security Grant/Lighting News - we got the grant! We received a federal grant of \$47,809 for improving security and safety at our church. This grant award includes \$10,000 for new parking lot lights! Also included are funds to add locks to all of our classroom doors and a new “controlled access system” (keyless locks, video cameras at our two main entrances). Now we are just waiting on paperwork. :) Once we have it, we will install the new lighting in the parking lot! The other projects will take a bit longer to implement, so stay tuned for details.

Window Update: We are eagerly awaiting the return of our historic windows/shutters in the sanctuary. We hope they will be back by the end of November.

AND.....COMING SOON: The Sanctuary Restoration Project!

The Sanctuary Restoration Project will begin January 1. As we shared before, the plaster ceiling must be totally removed and replaced. This work will require temporary scaffolding. The entire project should take about 2 months, assuming no major hiccups. The ceiling work will be done first and then it must cure for several weeks, during which time the walls will be patched. Once that is done, painting can begin!

Unfortunately, the Sanctuary will not be usable while the scaffolding is in place. Worship services will be held in Fellowship Hall starting on December 29. Our goal is to be back in the sanctuary BEFORE PALM SUNDAY, if not before. Our staff and several committees are working on plans to make this temporary move as seamless and comfortable as possible. We appreciate everyone’s patience and flexibility as we get through those few months. We ask for prayers that we move through this time of transition and mess with patience, kindness, grace and humor, and that this experience might draw us closer together as one body of Christ.

As we continue to work on these projects, we are drawing down our cash balance. Your continued pledge payments are vital to our efforts! We have budgeted for bridge loan financing, and while we have not needed it yet, we will likely need to secure a bridge loan for the Sanctuary Restoration. As always, early pledge payments are welcome to help minimize bridge loan interest.

Special Note: For your convenience, charts containing completion date projections for the Capital Campaign’s various projects are posted on bulletin boards throughout the church.

CHURCH MINISTRY @ FIRST

Church Staff

Senior Pastor: *Rev. Mark Mendes* [mmendes@fccej.org]
Associate Pastor: *Rev. Josh Simon* [jsimon@fccej.org]
Music Director: *Carol Spradling* [cspradling@fccej.org]
Christian Education Director: *Laurie Chipman* [lchipman@fccej.org]
Church Administrator: *Doug Ovitt* [welcome@fccej.org]

Music Ministry

Cherub Music: *Jenny Bourn* [jennybourn4@gmail.com]
& *Laura Marthaler* [Laura.marthaler@gmail.com]
Currier Bell Choir Director: *Carolyn Harris* [899-6759]
Finally @ First Director: *Rick Dooley* [rickdooley5@gmail.com]
Joyful Noise: *Jessica Moos* [jessicamoosvermont@gmail.com]
Men At First Director: *Bill Bickford, Jr.* [bill.bickford@aol.com]
Sanctuary Choir/Heavenly Harmony Director: *Carol Spradling*
[cspradling@fccej.org]

Committee / Church Officer Contacts

President, Chair Human Resources Committee: *Carl Wermer* [879-7650]
Vice President, Chair Finance & Pastoral Relations: *Maureen Evans* [879-7517]
Treasurer & Historian: *Ann Gray* [878-4088]
Asst. Treasurer: *Dan Petherbridge* [879-0261]
Financial Secretary: *Pat Seaver* [879-4445]
Clerk: *Alison Wermer* [879-7650]
Christian Education: *Jenny Bourn* [802-309-7441]
Communications: *Andrea Sharp* [879-0580] or *Judy McCullen* [878-9794]
Deacons: *Betsy Weischedel* [922-2094], *Peter Schmalz* [202-297-3625]
Hospitality: *Jim Glatz* [503-5076]
Missions: *Joanne Irwin* [878-2528], *Ed Steele* [871-5897]
Music: *Denise Keating* [345-8900]
Nominating: *Barb Smith* [878-6866]
Stewardship: *Jessica Moos* [399-8068]
Trustees: *Kevin Meilleur* [238-4041]
Ushering: *Jessica Moos* [399-8068]

Recognized Groups at First Church

Heavenly Cents Thrift Shop [879-6552] *Sue Wood* suewood@myfairpoint.net
Heavenly Food Pantry Contact: *Valerie Gabert* [879-0109]
Called To Care Contact: *Beth Volker* [238-2713]
Nepali Christian Community Contact: *Dan Raut* [310-4371]
Craft Fest Committee Contact: *Linda Bogardus* [lbogardus@myfairpoint.net]

mission
M O M E N T S
U N I T E D C H U R C H O F C H R I S T

November 3, 2019
Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

Transforming Love

Luke 19:1-10

Doesn't everyone belong in the arms of the Sacred? -Lady Gaga

Christ has no body now
on earth but yours,
no hands but yours, no
feet but yours,
yours are the eyes
through which Christ's
compassion is to look out
to the earth,
yours are the feet by
which He is to go about
doing good and
yours are the hands by
which He is to bless us
now. - **Teresa of Avila**

If you study a scholarly interpretation of the story of Zacchaeus, the scholar might note drily that in first century Palestine, it would have caused a tremendous loss of face for a grown man to climb a tree. It's not just first century Palestinian society, however, that looks askance at grown men climbing trees. It does not take a tremendous stretch of the modern imagination to picture the ridiculousness of this scene.

Zacchaeus must have had very little left to lose in order to allow himself to be humiliated in this way. The branches of sycamore are welcoming and offer copious cover. So why did he come out of hiding? Why expose himself to more embarrassment and ridicule? When Jesus saw Zacchaeus and called him down out of the tree, why did Zacchaeus come down? He could have stayed up in the tree and hidden from Jesus and from the crowd. After all, it was-

n't just the tree climbing that made him an object of scorn. The people hated him because he was a tax collector and they believed he had cheated them.

But Zacchaeus heard Jesus calling him and saying his name, and he made a risky but life-giving choice. It did not take too much persuading on the part of Jesus. In their short exchange, Jesus offered Zacchaeus three precious gifts – Jesus saw him, Jesus invited him, and Jesus loved him. These three gifts had the immediate effect of transforming Zacchaeus.

In a moment, it seems, Zacchaeus decided to change his ways. Because he was seen, and invited and loved, he was able to reconcile with this God and his community. This radical change did not take a miracle on the part of Jesus. It just took a compassionate moment of connection.

Teresa of Avila, the medieval mystic, reminds us that we are not just to follow Christ, but to be his hands and feet in the world. So, do this. Walk toward those on the margins and reach out your hand. Let those who feel unseen know they are seen. Extend an invitation to all. And radiate Christ's love wherever you go. We are Christ's hands and feet, and we can be the means by which even the most lost know that they are welcome "in the arms of the Sacred."

November 4, 2019 -

November 10, 2019

WEEKLY CHURCH CALENDAR

November 2019

Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa

					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December 2019

Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Monday, November 4

- 12:00pm - 1:30pm **Brown Bag** (Fellowship Hall) ☺
- 1:30pm - 4:00pm **Food Pantry Stocking** (Fellowship Hall & Gym) ☺
- 5:00pm - 7:00pm **BSA Troop 624** (Third Floor)
- 5:30pm - 6:45pm **Yoga @ First** (Gymnasium) ☺
- 5:30pm - 6:30pm **Group Victory** (Marvin Lounge) ☺
- 6:30pm - 9:30pm **Joe's Big Band** (Fellowship Hall) ☺
- 7:00pm - 8:30pm **BSA Troop 624** (Third Floor) - Douglas Ovitt ☺

Tuesday, November 5

- 8:30am - 10:00am **Sermon Talk Back** (Marvin Lounge) ☺
- 12:00pm - 1:30pm **Brown Bag** (Fellowship Hall) ☺
- 5:30pm - 7:00pm **Finance Committee** (Marvin Lounge) ☺
- 6:30pm - 8:30pm **Three Rivers District Meeting** (Fellowship Hall)
- 7:00pm - 9:00pm **Church Council** (Marvin Lounge) ☺

Wednesday, November 6

- 12:00pm - 1:30pm **Brown Bag** (Fellowship Hall) ☺
- 1:00pm - 2:30pm **FCCEJ Staff Meeting** (Marvin Lounge)
- 5:30pm - 7:00pm **Finally@First** (Fellowship Hall) ☺
- 6:00pm - 7:00pm **BSA PLC** (Third Floor) ☺
- 6:30pm - 8:30pm **Eagle Scout BOR** (3rd Floor Youth Lounge)
- 6:30pm - 8:15pm **Handbell Choir** (Sanctuary) ☺
- 7:00pm - 9:00pm **Wednesday Night Searchers** (Marvin Lounge) ☺
- 7:00pm - 8:30pm **Boy Scouts** (Fellowship Hall) ☺

Thursday, November 7

- 8:30am - 11:30am **Essex Art League** (Fellowship Hall) ☺
- 10:00am - 3:00pm **Craft Fest & Nearly New Auction, Setup** (Marvin Lounge, Fellowship Hall, Gym)
- 12:00pm - 2:00pm **JOY** (Sanctuary) ☺
- 12:00pm - 1:30pm **Brown Bag** (Fellowship Hall) ☺
- 3:00pm - 4:00pm **Easterseals** (Third Floor) ☺
- 6:00pm - 9:00pm **Music@First** (Sanctuary) ☺
- 6:00pm - 8:00pm **Cub Scouts Pack 630** (Fellowship Hall) ☺
- 7:30pm - 9:00pm **Confirmation** (Marvin Lounge) ☺
- 8:15pm - 9:15pm **Music @ First** (Fellowship Hall) ☺
- 8:30pm - 9:30pm **Men @ First** (Fellowship Hall) ☺

Friday, November 8

- 10:00am - 3:00pm **Craft Fest, Setup** (Marvin Lounge, Fellowship Hall, Gym)
- 12:00pm - 1:30pm **Brown Bag** (Fellowship Hall) ☺

Saturday, November 9

- 9:00am - 3:00pm **11th Annual Five Corners Craft Fest** (All Church)
- 9:00am - 11:00am **Nepali Community Worship** (Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall) ☺

Sunday, November 10

- 8:30am - 9:30am **Worship Service** (Sanctuary) ☺
- 9:00am - 12:00pm **Craft Fest Sale** (Gym)
- 10:15am - 11:30am **Worship Service** (Sanctuary) ☺
- 1:00pm - 2:00pm **Brown Bag** (Fellowship Hall) ☺